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**DEC 14 2006**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of

Steven O. Markel

Application No. 10/766,723

Filed: January 27, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 577172001900

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO WITHDRAW  
FROM RECORD

This is a decision on the Request to Withdraw as attorney or agent of record under 37 C.F.R. § 1.36(b), filed September 14, 2006.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

A grantable request to withdraw as attorney/agent of record must be signed by every attorney/agent seeking to withdraw or contain a clear indication that one attorney is signing on behalf of another/others. A request to withdraw will not be approved unless at least 30 (thirty) days would remain between the date of approval and the later of the expiration date of a time to file a response or the expiration date of the maximum time period which can be extended under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

The Office cannot approve the request at this time since the reasons provided do not meet any of the conditions under the mandatory or permissive categories enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40. Section 10.40 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulation states, "[a] practitioner shall not withdraw from employment in a proceeding before the Office without permission from the Office[.]" More specifically, 37 CFR 10.40 states, "[i]f paragraph (b) of this section is not applicable, a practitioner may not request permission to withdraw in matter pending before the Office unless such request or such withdrawal is" for one the permissive reasons listed in 37 CFR 10.40(c). The reasons set forth in the request, *application is being transferred to another attorney*, do not meet any the conditions set forth in 37 CFR 10.40.

All future communications from the Office will continue to be directed to the above-listed address until otherwise notified by applicant.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Terri Williams at 571-272- 2991.

Terri Williams  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

cc: **Marc Kaufman, Esq.**  
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